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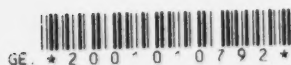
INTEGRATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Written statement*/ submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence,
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[12 January 2001]

*/ This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).



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ENG

1. One of the most important concerns of thinkers and theorists in humanities is to define certain concepts such as participation, democracy, equity, development, social and economic justice, etc., basically with a view to finding the ways for their realization. It's a fact that different schools have offered different preconditions and ways, but the point is that, among other things, the role of women and their important status have been considerably recognized in recent decades as a main factor in realization of such lofty ideals. This has become a benchmark in all endeavours for improvement by many groups, organizations, national and international bodies and more important than others, by the United Nations. In fact, one can say that few causes promoted by the United Nations have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women.
2. In addition to the Charter of the United Nations, the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies, the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), many national, regional and international conferences have directly addressed the issue of elimination of discrimination against women in the second half of the Twentieth Century. Other important events such as the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro), World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo), the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen) should be added to the list since they have also emphasized the women's role in their related subject to forge a consensus on actions to be taken in support of the advancement of women as a part of the United Nations comprehensive goals on development issues. If one decides to create a list of such historic legacy of agreed strategies, laws, decisions, standards, actions and plans to advance the status of women worldwide - belonging to the past fifty years directly or indirectly, - then several volumes of books should be edited.
3. However, despite the considerable progress made during these decades, the concern over women's status and the realization of their human rights are still remained as a significant problem with different degrees. It should be admitted that - although the made progress has not been the same in different countries, and the women's share in developing countries is less than theirs in developed countries - gender discrimination happens in all countries of the world, and the only difference is the way it is done against women.
4. A question which can be raised up, is that why the women all over the world, despite all these efforts, should suffer from gender violence and discrimination? It seems that a comprehensive research should be conducted in this regard. Generally speaking, one of the main reasons for this is the existing injustices in societies due to the various cultural, social and economic factors. So more logical campaigns should be organized to uproot such injustices. The social movements and interested organizations should address these injustices more than before, since when justice is "marginalized" in various social, economic and political aspects of life, then discrimination and oppression are appeared.
5. As it has been mentioned in the actions which should be taken by the governments in the final document of Beijing+5, the governments have been requested to create and maintain a non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive legal environment by reviewing legislation with the view to

striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005, and eliminating legislative gaps that leave women and girls without protection of their rights and without effective recourse against gender-based discrimination; It is in this context that we request the Commission on Human Rights to decide to create a mechanism for reviewing and monitoring the discrimination against women. We propose the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on discrimination against women.
